Hydrogen Storage Workshop

Advanced Concepts Working Group

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Advanced Storage Techniques/ Approaches in Priority Order

1. Crystalline Nanoporous Materials (15)
2. Polymer Microspheres (12)
   Self-Assembled Nanocomposites (12)
3. Advanced Hydrides (11)
   Metals – Organic (11)
4. BN Nanotubes (5)
   Hydrogenated Amorphous Carbon (5)
5. Mesoporous materials (4)
   Bulk Amorphous Materials (BAMs) (4)
6. Iron Hydrolysis (3)
7. Nanosize powders (2)
8. Metallic Hydrogen (1)
   Hydride Alcoholysis (1)

Overarching R&D Questions for All Advanced Materials

- Maximum storage capacity – theoretical model
- Energy balance / life cycle analysis
- Hydrogen absorption / desorption kinetics
- Preliminary cost analysis – potential for low cost, high volume
- Safety

Crystalline Nanoporous Materials – Description / Current Status

- Advanced zeolites
- Advantages
  - Cheaply available
  - Chemically and thermally robust
  - Good structural reproducibility
  - Modifiable
  - Environmentally friendly
  - Safe
- Maximum H2 capacity measured to date: 2.5 wt% (5 kg/m3)

Crystalline Nanoporous Materials – R&D Needs

1. Maximum wt% of H_2 that can be absorbed by physisorption
2. Chemical modifications of zeolite surfaces
3. Best structures for max absorption – small vs. large pore
4. Characterization of internal surface structures
5. Advanced material characterization
6. Zeolite chemistry (e.g., Si/Al)

Polymer Microspheres – Description / Current Status

- Hollow spheres from glassy polymers
  - Segmented polymers hold H2 at room temperature
  - Goal: Hold liquid H2 at room temp.
- Advantages: flowable/consistent with GM design, portable, safe storage, microencapsulation, light weight, inexpensive, rechargable/recyclable
- Operate >300 atm
- PTMSP has very high gas permeability
- Issues/Challenges: Room temp leak rate, Manufacture, Identifying correct polymer, turning it on and off

Polymer Microspheres – R&D Needs

- Pressure inside the sphere
- How to get H_2 in and out and in/out rate
- Identifying correct polymer
- Turning it on and off
- Room temperature leak rate

Self-Assembled Nanocomposites – Description / Current Status

- Aerogels are the scaffold; template with organic functional groups; physisorption, acid-base reaction
- Advantages
  - Extremely lightweight (0.003-0.5 g/cc)
  - Self assembly in one step (commercial) process
  - Flexibility to control properties – surface groups chemistry, pore structure, incorporation of dispersed metallic clusters
  - Stable materials
  - Molecular “switch” for sorption control
  - Environmentally benign
  - Inexpensive

Self-Assembled Nanocomposites – R&D Needs

1. Studying silica aerogels
2. Modifying aerogels
3. Theoretical Modeling - various chemical structures / materials
4. Functionalization strategies

Advanced Hydride Materials – Description / Current Status

- Advantages:
  - High wt% hydrogen potential
  - Lightweight
  - Reversibility potential (to be explored)

Advanced Hydride Materials – R&D Needs

1. Hydrogen generation from $LiBH_4$
2. How to get H2 in and out
3. Incorporation of LiBH4 into nanoporous materials to see effects on the chemical reaction (for lowering reaction temperature)

Metal Organics – Description / Current Status

- Zeolitic materials using carbon as backbone, polymeric synthesis, using carbon and metals; cross between carbon and zeolitic materials; organic microporous
- Advantages:
  - Flexibility in material composition / structure
  - Larger pore structures with tailored properties
  - Potential to put on advantageous functional groups
  - Capillary effect

Metal Organics – R&D Needs

1. Initial studies of wt% hydrogen absorption
2. Chemical modifications – functional groups

Boron Nitride Nanotubes – Description / Current Status

- Nanotubes based on boron nitride instead of carbon
- Roughly equivalent to carbon nanotubes in terms of advantages, but less pyrophoric

Boron Nitride Nanotubes – R&D Needs

1. Verify wt%
2. Understanding adsorption mechanisms
3. Estimating costs
4. Desorption behavior

Bulk Amorphous Materials (BAMs) – Description / Current Status

- A new approach
  - New class of metallic materials based on multi-component alloy systems
  - Loosely packed with porous defects (interstitial holes for H2 storage) in super cooled liquid phase

- Ti-Al-Fe based BAMs - light weight / low cost
  Can meet 6% target if H/M = 3

- Thermal treatment may be used to control size and distribution of porous defects

Bulk Amorphous Materials (BAMs) – Advantages

- Fast adsoption/desorption kinetics
- Resistance to embrittlement and disintegration
- Multiple types of interstitial sites for H2 absorption
- Chemisorption
- Low cost / volume production

Bulk Amorphous Materials (BAMs) – R&D Needs

1. Verify wt% for Ti-Al-Fe material
2. Low density / low cost materials
3. Demonstrate H2 release
4. Calculate / optimize environment and bonding strengths
5. Detailed experimental information on bond lengths and ordering

Hydrogenated Amorphous Carbon – Description / Current Status

- Carbon skeleton made up in part of stressed graphitic “cages” nanotube sponge)
  - Plasma-assisted chemical deposition process
- Advantages:
  - 6-7 wt% hydrogen
  - stable up to T=300 degrees C
  - potential for high hydrogen content
- Tests indicate rapid H2 release between 200-300 degrees C

Hydrogenated Amorphous Carbon – R&D Needs

1. Reversibility
2. Kinetics – in/out rates
3. Structure / Modeling
   – to determine whether paths are stable, diffuse back and forth, interconnected
4. Fabrication of powders